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ventory: to sune up this tedious tale, tooke what powder and shot was there, & armes both for horse and foote, & papers unlooked over & brought away w<sup>th</sup> us, the other whole estate left in the house w<sup>th</sup> Mrs. Blayton. Some Keyes were brought away all w<sup>ch</sup> is returned and this is the plundering & strange usage Mr. Blayton hath suffered, twould doe well to make a noyse in England to his imployers, when in truth he hath not lost one brass farthing nor the worth of it. As to Joanes that is s<sup>d</sup> to be *strangely* used by my officer, I know they meane Capt. Levey, that tooke him by Coll<sup>o</sup> Bridger's order, I am sure can answeare for what he hath done. And indeed how precisely just would they be dealt w<sup>th</sup> all, and how would they make the least slip highly repugnant, & derogatory to his sacred Ma<sup>ties</sup> moste gracious proclamation of pardon, never considering theire owne crimes, & how repugnant they were to all loyalty, Christainity, and humanity, as if his Majestye intended to forgive his rebbellis theire great crimes, and have his loyall subjects called to a severe acc<sup>t</sup> for the least slip they have made amiss in Executing the Govern<sup>r</sup> Comands although to the best of theire understanding, w<sup>ch</sup> I doe most humbly leave to yo<sup>r</sup> houn<sup>r</sup> wisdomes, &c.

(TO BE CONCLUDED.)

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### SOME COLONIAL LETTERS.

[The originals of these letters are preserved among the Ludwell MSS., now in possession of the Virginia Historical Society. The Philip Ludwell to whom they are addressed was the second of that name. See *Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. I, p. 178.]

London, the 3rd July, 1717.

Dear Sir:

I had the honour to write to you very lately, but several things having occurred since, create you this new trouble. I don't know what steps the Leiut: Governor may have made on that side towards Peace: but by his letters, and particularly by

one which he wrote to Lord Orkney,\* he can have no great disposition to it. This letter consists of about 3 large sheets of Paper written close in Robertson's hand on every side. Half of this Epistle is fill<sup>d</sup> up with the bitterest accusations of his Enemy's (which he explains to be you & me only) and the other half is stufft out with his own Commendations. His Lord'p was so good as to read most of this Piece to me, and I can say that he is as exorbitant in doing himself too much honour as he is in doing us too much wrong. In his elegant account of us he is pleased to say, amongst abundance of other kind things, that we have done him more injury than we can repair, if we obtained the whole Government of Virginia to be settled upon him during his whole life. For that we wrote over malicious and treacherous letters to his late Brother, in which we insinuated so many black things against him that in pure resentment he resolved to marry and get a son, by which he has been disappointed of a vast inheritance. This he says without the uncertainty of ifs and peradventures, as if the thing had been proved to him under our own hands. Now as far as this concerns me, I take the God of truth to witness that I never did directly nor indirectly write one Syllable to his Brother in my whole life. So far was I from doing that, that I took myself to be very much in favour when his Brother marry<sup>d</sup> and whenever I made mention of him in my letters it was to his advantage. And if I had been Inobliged at that time, I should have abhorr<sup>d</sup> so villanous a piece of treachery, as much as he would do that accuses me of it. Nay, I can't forbear thinking that to accuse a man falsely of such a Crime is as heinous as to submit to it. \* \* \*

The 2nd accusation against us is, that we sent those Articles to the Council of Trade, which were without a name, whereas as I hope for mercy I never see em til Col. Blackiston shewed me a copy of them. And I can discern plainly both by the style and by the indiscreet way of transmitting them that you had no hand in it. However the Enemy is very peremptory in fixing them upon us, which is a farther demonstration of his great justice. In that he vouchsafes to lay to our charge every

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\* Alexander Spotswood was appointed Lieutenant-Governor to George Hamilton, Earl of Orkney, the Governor and commander-in-chief.

bad thing that ever befell him since his coming to the Government, and that so positively that one might think at this distance, that he had unquestionable evidence for every article. Nay, my Lord Orkney is almost persuaded by the point blank of the impeachment that every part of it is true, I begged of his Lord'p to suspend his beliefs of such dreadful articles til some proofs could be made of them, especially since he very well knew how they were drawn up by an adversary. I pleaded from our accusers own words that he could not possibly believe we had done him so many and such vile injuries, because he says in another place that his arraigning us for the many misfeasances in our several offices and not out of any resentment or displeasure he had conceived against us, but purely out of a conscientious discharge of his duty to his Sovereign. Now if he really believed we had used him so infamously, he must have conceived resentment ag. us, and then those publique accusations would have been inspected to proceed in a good measure from thence. Many other are the misdemeanors which he is please to lay to o. Cha. which are equally true with the former. Then for the Panegyrick which he makes upon himself it is beyond that of Pliny upon Trajan. By his account he is without fault and master of every perfection; Particularly he pronounces himself free from all Resentment for which he makes an appeal to every body that knows him. How blind is vanity so at least how unwilling to confess what it do's see to the disadvantage of one's darling self. \* \* \* \* \*

I find the Preliminary Article of the Peace hath not been agreed to by the Enemy, so that I must wait your farther directions how to proceed. Randolph and Averilla are both arrived, but I have as yet not one syllable from you by either of 'em so that I am in the dark what steps were made during the general court towards a more complete reconciliation. I understand by others that the Governor has drop't the suit against you, notwithstanding he wrote my Lord Orkney word that you had stated the case partially, and therefore no heed was to be given to any lawyers opinion thereupon. I am told that you & your family were to wait on the Leiut: Governor on the King's Birth-night, from whence I infer that you're in a way to be good friends. But whatever grace you may find it seems I am not like to come

off so, but am threaten' with new accusations. What they may be I'm at a great loss to know, but shou'd be glad to have 'em come while I'm upon the Place to answer for myself. Something that has fallen out here will not contribute much towards my returning into favour. For I have had a hand in procuring the Solicitor Gene<sup>l</sup> opinion, and the Council of Trade's report in prejudice of the 2 Laws. This will never be forgiven, but I would venture any resentment rather than suffer that Country to grone under such hardships as it does by that means. I understand that Mr. Cary & Mr. Kenedy have petitioned to be heard by Council against the Report of the Council of Trade. What any advocate can say in defense of such unrighteous Laws I know not, but as long as we can prove 'em to be against Acts of Parliament, the King's Prerogative, and the Royal Instructions, we are in no great danger of getting them disallowed. However this step in Mr. Kenedy will discover the true business he was sent upon, and shew how they were deceived in the frivolous Errand y' was pretended. \* \* \* \* \*

I am, Dear Sir, Your

W. BYRD.

To Hon. Philip Ludwell, Esq., Greenspring in Virginia.

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London, the 28th of October, 1717.

Dear Sir:

By Capt. Whitaire I have writ you an account, How far I had proceeded in the affair of the Oyer and Terminer Court, and I did enclose in that letter the memorial which I presented to the Council of Trade upon that chapter; and that Commander promised to deliver all to you with his own hand, to prevent all foul play. Their Lord<sup>sh</sup> proposed to make an end of it before now: But I can't learn they have made any other step therein, but only deliver'd the Council's letter with my memorial to Mr. Molesworth [one of their number] who when he has duely consider'd them as also the letters which they have lately received from the Leiut: Governor upon the same subject, he will make his Report, and something will be concluded thereupon by the Board. I have entreated him to make all the convenient Dispatch he may

w<sup>th</sup> he has promised he will. I met with a very unexpected Rubb from an odd opinion of some of their Lord<sup>sh</sup> which I think I have overcome, namely that they don't think it their business to consider any Representation concerning the Plantations, except it be transmitted to the Respective agents, and deliver<sup>d</sup> by them. Now I own this Rule is very usefull to save them abundance of trouble: but may be very pernicious to the Plantations, especially to Virginia, that has no agent except Col. Blakeston who is in truth the Lieut: Governor's Solicitor, and not the Country's for he will act nothing in the world in prejudice of the Governor, tho' he do anything never so injurious to the country. I answered in general, that this would be making the Governours absolute, because they would never hear any story but his: but in particular as to this case, I thought I had a Right as I had the honour to be one of the Council, to appear in behalf of my self and the rest of my Brethren against any Innovation that might be introduced to their prejudice. They at last agreed, that in this case I might appear, but without departing from their General Rule. Thus you see how necessary it will be for the Country to have an agent residing here, or else I don't understand how their wrongs will ever be righted. I shall write again very soon, when I hope I shall give you a fuller account of my Stewardship. In the mean while I am, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

W. BYRD.

To the Hon: Philip Ludwell, Esq: at Green Spring in Virginia.

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Brenton, 4 January, 1723 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

My honoured Kinsman:

I am very much obliged to you for ye good account you gave me of ye happiness and prosperous condition of that part of my relations in Virginia. I pray God to increase his blessings upon them that they may abound in all ye good and Luxury of this life and that which is to come. I thank God ye most part of us have come in a good way, but my oldest Kinsman, Robert Ludwell, has made a Breach amongst us by marry-

ing a young wench of no fortune or Reputation, insomuch that tho' I used all the persuading I could think of to hinder it and requested all my friends to do the same, yet he went perversly on and concluded it on purpose to affront me. This gave me some uneasiness at first, but to show him I would not bear it, I altered my Will and have seized an Estate of 2000 lbs. value in his younger brother John Ludwell, who married into an hon<sup>ble</sup> family and lives handsomely. Capt. Williams of Bristol came hither last spring and saw by accident a young girl of my youngest \* \* I have brought up and told Capt. Fry he was certain she was of kin to the Ludwells, she being so well like y<sup>r</sup> daughter Miss Hannah, upon which I often call her by the same name. Her mother has 8 more of them and I saw all ye 9 at dinner with her this Christmas time, I thank God it goes on very cheerfully among them and shall not want my assistance. We drank the tokay merrily when Capt. Williams was here, & I have put on 5 mourning Rings in memory of y<sup>r</sup> good father.

I have rec'd the 2 Hh'ds of Tobacco you were so kind as to send me and thought my kinsman R. L. should have gotten money by them, But upon this Rupture between us he refused to undertake the doing of it, so I desired my friend Capt. Whitehurst to sell them for me, in Bristol, where the Comoditie at present is very low, and then tho' one of them he stript yielded but \* \* \* and ye opening to be paid in 3 months, the charges of bringing them over, ye cost in ye country, &c., will bring me about 40 \* in pocket. But in this we must be beholding to our Godly neighbors Scotland, who pay less duty and consequently undersell us. I do not write this to complain of ye hard bargain, for I shall take care to send you ye balance in such goods as you direct me to buy at Bristol Fair the 25th instant, having no hopes of procuring you such security as you want, that being a thing not possible here, and I am afraid to be concerned in it, less I should be accounted a Kidnapper. Not but here are enough gardeners and other workmen to spare, but they will live meanly and send their families to ye Parish to be \* \* rather than hear of such a long journey to mend their condition.

\* \* \* \* \*

When the goods are bought they shall be sent by ye next

ship bound for York River with an account of them, which I hope may go as ye had come hither.

Be pleased to give my humble service to y<sup>r</sup> Lady & Family and to all my other Relations in y<sup>r</sup> part of ye world & to believe me to be

Honoured Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> most humble Servant & Kinsman

TH. LUDWELL.

To Hon. Philip Ludwell,  
at Green Spring in Virginia.

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Currotoman, July 23rd, 1726.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> S<sup>r</sup>:

Y<sup>r</sup> very surprizing news reached me just now. I dare say you know me so well to believe y<sup>t</sup> I am very tenderly affected with the loss of so good a Governor when we were all in hopes of his getting well; at least y<sup>r</sup> report was so with us and that was ye occasion of his stay.

The Post y<sup>t</sup> I am now to act in is so far from being gratefull to me that nothing less than absolute necessity will draw me to it.\*

The Carter now lies before my Door her business done, ready to depart. My Letters unfinished, my Bills of Loading not taken, those things must be settled before I can leave my home. It will be impossible for me to get to town before Thursday or Fryday next & the inconveniencies of delaying the Funeral may be so great y<sup>t</sup> I do not think it proper for me to direct such a thing, therefore let Mr. Holloway & Dr. Blair know y<sup>t</sup> it is my desire the Funeral be performed on ye appointed time & beg you will make my excuses where they are necessary; I know ye inconveniencies y<sup>t</sup> may attend ye Council by there being at ye Funeral and afterwards waiting for my coming to Town, but 'tis impossible for me to keep it. Ye ship will not stay. Col. Page

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\* Hugh Drysdale died July 22, 1726, the day preceding the writing of this letter. Colonel Jennings being suspended, Robert Carter, President of the Council, assumed the administration of the government. He was succeeded by William Gooch in the following year.



comes to my house to-day from Mr. Wormeleys; Col. Robinson, his Lady [died] on Thursday last at night. Mr. Grymes is ye only person that is likely to be at ye Funeral. My Boat is going to Rosegill forthwith, I shall give these three gentlemen notice. I order ye Messenger to call upon Col. Beverley & Col. Digges and let them know ye Funeral is to be on Tuesday. Col. Beverley is so crazy tis not likely he will be at ye Funeral, altho' if he is, he is at home. Col. Byrd & my son will be ye only suffering persons y<sup>r</sup> way by my delay, whose goodness I must rely upon to forgive it. I alwais am S<sup>r</sup>

Your most obedient Humblest Serv<sup>t</sup>,

ROBERT CARTER.

To Philip Ludwell.

Dear Sir:

You have by Charles, some cherry trees, 6 doz. Town Sider, w<sup>ch</sup> if you will allow it to settle will prove good, a small cheese for the good Lady, its Hobson's choice, the Tallow from West & Crowder & what trees from Wests are good for any thing; Denny's are ruined by the Hares. I don't know what to do about hoes for ye people. I will muster up what Iron I can & get them made for the smallest sum of money I can, but I shall certainly ruin you (as you say), but if y<sup>r</sup> people want hoes in time, I'me sure you are to expect no corn from these. Its but no doubt you may make enough by you.

I am very much oblig'd to you for y<sup>r</sup> care of me in Rum, w<sup>ch</sup> answers y<sup>r</sup> Charicter exactly, but I think that its the greatest shame that the Devil should be the least concern'd in that affair, tho he paid his money down. I won't spare him above an anchor, w<sup>ch</sup> is too good for his Diabolical throat. My wine came very safe only one Bottle, but they were one doz. short. Y<sup>r</sup> colts have not been gentled any, so that Charles can't lead them up & if you think convenient they had better to be kept here until next fall.

Gully has drawn on you payable to Capt. Eustace for forty Shillings; pray Signifie if I am to pay it. Some times you are so very busie that I can hardly read some of y<sup>r</sup> letters w<sup>ch</sup> makes me very merry. I shall write you in a little time again and then

I hope to Salute you with the safe arrival of the Carter, Capt. Dare, who I expect dayly. Our best respects attend you, y'r good Lady & fireside.

Dear Sir, Your very affect hum<sup>ble</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>,

RD. LEE.

To Philip Ludwell.

March 7th, 1734-5.

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Williamsburg, March 3d, 1735.

Dear Sir:

I find you are still a passionate man. But you know I am otherwise, therefore I will make a cool Apology for not returning a written answer to the Letter you Fancie I throwd among my useless papers. For I don't know that I rec'd more than one Letter. You directed me to concert my measures with the Secretary about the Division of your Lands, and to move the General Court for an order for the Division. I told him that was impracticable, there being so many persons and many of them Infants concerned; and desired him to tell you so, and to send me directions for bringing a Suit in Chancery, which is the regular method for obtaining what you desire. He told me he had talked with you upon it and I thought that might have been taken for a sufficient answer. But for the future whenever you honor [me] with your letters I shall be very punctual in returning written answers. And as an Instance of my Diligence I write this the Same moment I rec'd your Letter, to assure you that you may always command my assistance in the defence of your just rights, For when you are in a cool temper, no body is more at your service, than

Yo<sup>r</sup> most obedient Servant

JOHN RANDOLPH.\*

To Landon Carter at his home in Richmond [county].

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\*This was the Attorney General of Virginia. For details of his life, see *Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. III, pp. 265-8.

London, November 8, 1760.

The 25th of July last I Saluted my Dear Mr. Jones and by his Favour of ye 18th I had the Pleasure to find that I was no less in his thoughts at the same Time. People are sadly prone to pervert one's words as well as one's Deeds, or else they would never so willfully have mistook what I said about my goods which was only that if they were all taken off at once by ye Invoice unopened and remittance directly made, should desire no more than the first cost.

Your Tenderness suppressed ye Particulars of Mr. Rowe's abuse, which I should be glad to know, Not as an encentive to Resentment, but as a cautionary Information. Resentment, God knows, I truly endeavour to divest myself of. It is a troublesome Inmate and a treacherous counsellour. But an higher consideration is, that it is made the condition of our own Remission *Sicut et nos remittimus Debitoribus Nostris*.

I hear many disagreeable things from Virginia, as the Battle of the Scholars, the Regiments laying down their arms, &c., but none with more concern than that the Com[missar]y was presented by the Grand Jury for drunkenness. How sad a wound does Religion receive like Cæsar from those who by all Tyes are bound to be her best friends and supporters.

I am much obliged to you for your kind Intelligence about my affairs. I hope I shall find my confidence well placed in Cary, whose Honesty I allways had a great opinion of. I hope he will have your friendly advice and assistance. And I am extremely thankfull to you for that you have already given him on my acc't.

How many Bucks have you slain? or do you choose rather to sport among the Does? I hope you have made sure of one *Virginis os habitum que gerens qua pulchra faciat Prole Parentem*,

I wish you \* \* \* \* that this shortened your Letter \* \* have asked pardon with such a formal countenance for "The Trouble you gave and the Freedom you took in writing so long an Epistle." But perhaps it was a hint to me not to be too tedious as old Fellows are very apt to be & you might justly fear I should from ye great Pleasure I have in your Company, which writing to you is a kind of enjoyment of.

Well, a word to y'r wife is enough: and so let you see that I would willingly be thought to deserve the Proverb. I most respectfully withdraw with a thousand Apologies for the great Trouble I have given you by such a long Intrusion. However, I can not do it before I have heartily sent answer to your kind prayer that we may meet again in Happyness at Green Spring. I am, Dear Sir,

Your affect. Friend and humble Servant,

PHI. LUDWELL.

P. S.—Tho' I could not with any Decency go on with my Letter I might after the example of many great writers run on in the Post Script as long as I would. However I rather choose to present you with the news Papers themselves than copy them. You will see by them what is too serious a subject of mourning to be fond of transcribing.

Pray present mine and the young Ladies perticular compliments to Mr. Allen & his good Lady who I hope are now blessed with a fine son and Heir. I will send your seeds by y'r next ship. I have not yet rec'd one from a country seedsman recommended to me by my friend ye famous Miller. There is no depending on what is sold in and about Town. It will be ye greatest pleasure in ye world to me to serve you.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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**DECISIONS OF VIRGINIA GENERAL COURT,  
1626-1628.**

[Robinson Transcripts, Virginia Historical Society MSS. Collections.]

A Court at James Citty present the 9th Octob. 1626: S<sup>r</sup> George Yeardley, Knt. Governor, &c; Captain Francis West, Dr. Pott, Capt. Smyth, Capt. Mathews, Mr. Claybourne, Capt. Tucker, & Mr. Ferrar.\*

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\*This was William Farrar, of Henrico county, a member of the Council.

In no English family had the Colony of Virginia more true and con-